

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 662

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CROWELL.

Pre-filed December 1, 2005, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

3544S.021

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to higher education funding.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows:

173.250. 1. There is hereby established a "Higher Education Academic
2 Scholarship Program" and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for
3 this program shall be used to provide scholarships for Missouri citizens to attend
4 a Missouri college or university of their choice pursuant to the provisions of this
5 section.

6 2. The definitions of terms set forth in section 173.205 shall be applicable
7 to such terms as used in this section. The term "academic scholarship" means an
8 amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a qualified college or university
9 student who has demonstrated superior academic achievement pursuant to the
10 provisions of this section.

11 3. The coordinating board for higher education shall be the administrative
12 agency for the implementation of the program established by this section, and
13 shall:

14 (1) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its
15 functions and the effectuation of the purposes of this section, including
16 regulations for granting scholarship deferments;

17 (2) Prescribe the form and the time and method of awarding academic
18 scholarships, and shall supervise the processing thereof; and

19 (3) Select qualified recipients to receive academic scholarships, make such

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 awards of academic scholarships to qualified recipients and determine the
21 manner and method of payment to the recipient.

22 4. A student shall be eligible for initial or renewed academic scholarship
23 if he or she is in compliance with the eligibility requirements set forth in section
24 173.215 excluding the requirement of financial need and undergraduate status,
25 and in addition meets the following requirements:

26 (1) Initial academic scholarships shall be offered in the academic year
27 immediately following graduation from high school to Missouri high school seniors
28 whose composite scores on the American College Testing Program (ACT) or the
29 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Board are in the top three percent
30 of all Missouri students taking those tests during the school year in which the
31 scholarship recipients graduate from high school. In the freshman year of college,
32 scholarship recipients are required to maintain status as a full-time student;

33 (2) Academic scholarships are renewable if the recipient remains in
34 compliance with the applicable provisions of section 173.215 and the recipient
35 makes satisfactory academic degree progress as a full-time student.

36 5. A student who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a
37 postsecondary student at an approved private or public institution beginning with
38 the fall, 1987, term and who meets the other eligibility requirements for an
39 academic scholarship shall, within the limits of the funds appropriated and made
40 available, be offered an academic scholarship in the amount of **[two] four**
41 thousand dollars for the first academic year of study, which scholarship shall be
42 renewable in the amount of **[two] four** thousand dollars annually for the second,
43 third and fourth academic years or as long as the recipient is in compliance with
44 the applicable eligibility requirements set forth in section 173.215, provided those
45 years of study are continuous and the student continues to meet eligibility
46 requirements for the scholarship; provided, however, if a recipient ceases all
47 attendance at an approved public or private institution for the purpose of
48 providing service to a nonprofit organization, a state or federal government
49 agency or any branch of the armed forces of the United States, the recipient shall
50 be eligible for a renewal scholarship upon return to any approved public or
51 private institution, provided the recipient:

52 (1) Returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

53 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher
54 education rules that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily
55 completed and was not compensated other than for expenses or that the service

56 to the state or federal governmental agency or branch of the armed forces of the
57 United States was satisfactorily completed; and

58 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive a
59 renewal scholarship.

60 6. A recipient of academic scholarship awarded under this section may
61 transfer from one approved Missouri public or private institution to another
62 without losing eligibility for the scholarship. If a recipient of the scholarship at
63 any time withdraws from an approved private or public institution so that under
64 the rules and regulations of that institution he or she is entitled to a refund of
65 any tuition, fees or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of the
66 refund attributable to the scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for
67 higher education.

68 7. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if a
69 recipient has been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the
70 provisions of this section but is unable to use the scholarship during the first
71 academic year because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need or
72 if a recipient ceases all attendance at an approved public or private institution
73 because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient shall
74 be eligible for an initial or renewal scholarship upon enrollment in or return to
75 any approved public or private institution, provided the recipient:

76 (1) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

77 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher
78 education rules of sufficient medical evidence documenting an illness, disability,
79 pregnancy or other medical need of such person to require that that person will
80 not be able to use the initial or renewal scholarship during the time period for
81 which it was originally offered; and

82 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an
83 initial or a renewal scholarship.

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